

United States Patent Application

of

Allen K. Yu

for

Electronic Ticketing System and Method

TO THE COMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS:

Your petitioner, Allen Yu, citizen of the United States, whose residence and postal mailing address is 935 Azure Street, Apartment #7, Sunnyvale, California 94087, prays that letters patent may be granted to him as the inventor of a **Electronic Ticketing System and Method** as set forth in the following specification.

SPECIFICATION

1. Field of the Invention.

[0001] The present invention relates generally to electronic ticketing. More particularly, the present invention relates to electronic ticketing through handheld and mobile personal computing devices.

2. Background of the Invention

[0002] Before the advent of computers, tickets for events were printed on paper and physically distributed to individuals who desired to attend a specific event. In order to streamline this ticketing process, most ticketing systems now include some sort of electronic components. For example, the ticket purchasing process has become more distributed. In the past, a person would have to wait in line at the box office located at the event facility. Now, individuals can purchase a ticket for virtually any major event in a city by visiting a ticket kiosk located near their home or through the Internet. However, the ticket delivery process has not improved significantly, as discussed below.

[0003] Often, tickets can be bought electronically from ticket kiosks that are located in large supermarket chains, other centralized locations, or through the Internet. Consider the scenario where someone desires to obtain a ticket electronically – whether through a kiosk or over Internet. First the purchaser goes through a process that determines whether a ticket is available by accessing a central database. If a ticket is available, the purchaser purchases the ticket and pays the

price of the ticket plus a ticket service charge. Then the ticket is printed out on a piece of paper and either given to the purchaser if the ticket is bought at a kiosk or mailed to the purchaser if the ticket is bought over the Internet. Sometimes, the purchaser is simply given a confirmation number, which is to be used later to redeem a physical, printed ticket at the event.

[0004] The printed tickets often have a barcode to identify the ticket, which may be scanned when the person arrives at the event. But even with a reduced paper system, this system still requires that an actual ticket must be printed at some point in the process either at a kiosk or at home on a printer.